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| Insert the appropriate Territory or Government official symbol or logo | **UKOT [insert name of territory] Government****XXX [add the appropriate authority/government department]****BIOSECURITY** |

 **Guidelines for Importers of Rock, stone, sand and pebbles**

These guidelines accompany the Import Health Standard (IHS) for the Importation of Rock, stone, sand and pebbles into UKOT [insert name of Territory].

While rocks, stones, sand and pebbles are not themselves invasive or pests, they are capable of carrying weeds seeds and disease-causing microbes in encrusted mud and dirt, and harbouring potentially harmful insects, spiders and mites, hidden away in nooks and crannies. They therefore pose a biosecurity risk which these standards are designed to minimise.

* You do not require an import licence to import rocks, stone, sand or pebbles into UKOT [insert name of Territory].
* However, all consignments must meet specified import health standards.
* Smaller quantities imported in sealed bags of up to 25kg per bag do not require any treatment before importation.
* Larger quantities imported loose, for example in open canvas bags, require treatment to kill any live insects in the country of origin. On arrival you will need to show proof of treatment, such as a fumigation certificate.
* Some species (for example coral rock) may be covered by the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) and require CITES certificates both from the country of origin and UKOT[insert name of Territory]as the country of import.
* It is your responsibility to make sure the supplier or packer has a copy of the import health standard and understands that consignments of rocks, stones, sand and pebbles must meet these conditions.
* On arrival the consignment may be inspected by an authorised agent.
* If live insects are found treatment will be required, at your expense.
* If it fails to meet the import health standards it may be refused entry, or confiscated and destroyed.
* Further information can be obtained from:

XXX [Provide full details (telephone number and email) of a named government official. There can be a high turnover of staff with some territories so it may be necessary to add the names of a primary and secondary contact]

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| Insert the appropriate Territory or Government official symbol or logo | **Import Health Standard****for the importation of****ROCK, STONE, SAND AND PEBBLES****into UKOT [insert name of Territory]** |
| **BIOSECURITY** | Issued in pursuance of xxx [insert the relevant Territory legislation].Version XXX |

**PURPOSE**

The purpose of this Import Health Standard (IHS) is to set out the requirements that must be met when importing rock, stone, sand and pebbles into UKOT[insert name of Territory] in order to manage the biosecurity risks associated with them.

**GUIDE FOR USERS**

The information contained in this product Import Health Standard is presented in numerically ordered sections with descriptive titles. Sections are grouped into one of 3 parts.

**PART A: General Information:** contains sections of general interest, including those relating to the legal basis for the UKOT[insert name of Territory]Import Health Standard for rock, stone, sand and pebbles and the general responsibilities of each importer for these items.

**PART B. Importation Procedure:** contains sections which outline the requirements be met prior to and during importation and conditions of eligibility.

**PART C: Clearance Procedure:** contains sections describing the requirements to be met at all UKOT[insert name of Territory]ports of entry and what may happen if the consignment does not meet the requirements of this Import Health Standard.

**Part A: General Information**

1. **Import Health Standard and Importer´s Responsibility**
2. Pursuant to xxx [insert the relevant Territory legislation] of the Laws of UKOT[insert name of Territory], this is the Import Health Standard for the importation of rock, stone, sand and pebbles into UKOT[insert name of Territory].
3. Obtaining importation clearance for each consignment of rock, stone, sand and pebbles imported into UKOT[insert name of Territory]is dependent upon the consignment meeting the requirements of the this Import Health Standard.
4. It is the importer or agent´s responsibility to ensure they are compliant with the current version of the rock, stone, sand and pebbles Import Health Standard at the time of importation of these items into UKOT[insert name of Territory].
5. Where it is known to the importer or agent that a consignment of rock, stone, sand and pebbles will not arrive on the ship voyage approved on the licence to import document, notification of this change should immediately be given to the contact listed at section 6.

**2. Review of Import Health Standard**

2.1 The import health standard may be review, amended or revoked if there are changes to policy or legislation on UKOT[insert name of Territory] or for any other lawful reason.

**3. Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species**

3.1 The importation of organic products derived from corals of some species are regulated under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), of which UKOT[insert name of Territory] is a signatory. Application for import of species identified in Appendices I, II or III must be accompanied by a valid CITES export permit issued by the appropriate management authority in the country of export, unless covered by exemptions as specified in Article VII. Additional information can be obtained at: <http://www.cites.org>.

**4. Definition of Terms**

* 1. **Inspector**

XXX [Add the appropriate contact]

* 1. **XXX** [add and define here any abbreviations for the government departments referred to in this Standard]

XXX is the Government Department**.**

* 1. **Equivalence**

Acceptance by the XXX [Add the appropriate authority/government department] that the circumstances relating to the importation of a consignment are such that the health status of the consignment is equivalent to the health status of a consignment that complies with the requirements of the import health standard.

* 1. **Importation clearance**

Means that rock, stone, sand and pebbles given importation clearance is free from all restrictions.

**5. Equivalence**

* 1. It is expected that the rock, stone, sand and pebbles permitted to enter UKOT[insert name of Territory] will meet the conditions of this import health standard in every respect. If the products do not comply with the requirements, an application for equivalence may be submitted to the XXX [add the appropriate authority/government department]for consideration prior to importation. Detailed information supporting the application for equivalence must also be forwarded for a decision, indicating which requirement cannot be met and what measures of an equivalent nature have been taken to compensate.

**6. Official Point of Contact**

* 1. The official point of contact(s) for this Import Health Standard is:

XXX [Provide full details (telephone number and email) of a named government official. There can be a high turnover of staff with some territories so it may be necessary to add the names of a primary and secondary contact]

**7. Fees and Costs**

7.1 All fees and costs involved with documentation, transport, storage and obtaining importation clearance shall be borne by the importer or agent.

**Part B: Importation Procedure**

**8. Licence to Import**

* 1. Importations into UKOT[insert name of Territory]of all rock, stone, sand and pebbles which meet the requirements of this health standard do notrequire a licence to import.

**9. Eligibility**

9.1 This Import Health Standard covers the importation into UKOT[insert name of Territory]of the following mineral organic and non-organic material:

9.1.1 Rock, stone, sand, pebbles, gravel and clinker.

9.1.2 Organic material include coral rock and sand of shell or coral origin.

9.2 Material supplied in **sealed** **bags of up to 25kg** each can be imported provided that it is:

9.2.1 From a commercial supplier.

9.2.2 In sealed, original packaging.

9.2.3 Clean and free from organic debris of plant or animal origin (soil, seeds, bark, leaves, fur, feathers, etc).

9.2.4 Examples of material in this case include: aquarium gravel, play sand, builders’ sand, and rounded river pebbles for ornamental use. It is expected that the total amount of material imported at any one time is in the region of 100kg – 500kg.

9.2.5 Material such as builders’ sand and play sand must meet UK industry standards.

9.3 Material **supplied loose**, such as in open canvas bags, can be imported provided that it is:

9.3.1 From a commercial supplier.

9.3.2 All consignments must be treated in the country of origin by fumigation, irradiation or heat treatment to kill live invertebrates and weed seeds.

 Fumigation rates are as follows, for temperatures above 20 degrees:

Methyl Bromide

48gr /m³ or 1.58Kg per container

Await 24 hours prior to opening

Aluminum Phosphide (dry sand only)

18 x 3mg tablets / container

Await 7 days before opening

9.3.3 Free from organic debris of plant or animal origin (soil, seeds, bark, leaves, fur, feathers, etc).

9.3.4 Examples of material in this case includes: dune sand, river sand or aggregate for construction work. It is expected that the total amount of material imported at any one time is in excess of 1 tonne.

9.3.5 Material intended for construction use must meet UK industry standards.

9.4 It is the importer's responsibility to ensure each consignment is **clean** and **free of all quarantine risk material,** including live insects, seeds, soil, mud, clay, animal faeces, animal material, plant material such as straw, twigs, leaves, roots, bark and other debris prior to arrival in UKOT[insert name of Territory].

9.5 All packaging must be clean and new.

**10.** **Documentation**

10.1 In the case of material detailed in Section 9.3.1 to 9.3.5 **proof of treatment** such as a fumigation certificate from a professional fumigation company in the country of origin is required and must accompany the consignment on arrival in UKOT[insert name of Territory].

**Part C. Importing Clearance Procedure:**

11.1 An inspector at the port of arrival may inspect the consignment, or a sample of the consignment. Providing that the consignment meets the conditions of **Eligibility** in Section 8 the consignment will be given clearance.

11.2 For small quantities of material as detailed in Section 9.2.1 to 9.2.5, if **soil, plant or animal related material** is found on inspection the consignment will be treated by immersion in a chlorine-based bleach solution (domestic bleach containing sodium hypochlorite) as follows:

Chlorine-based bleach at a dilution rate of 1 part bleach to 4 parts water, and allow to stand for at least 24 hours.

* 1. Volcanic clinker can harbour weed seeds, invertebrates and micro-organisms in internal crevices. Small quantities of less than 100kg of clinker must either be treated in the country of origin as detailed in Section 9.3.2 or be subject to immersion in a chlorine solution as detailed in Section 10.2 on arrival in UKOT[insert name of Territory].
	2. For both large and small quantities, if **live insects** are found the consignment will be treated either by immersion in chlorine-based bleach solution or cold storage as follows:

Store at -18°C for 7 consecutive days starting when the core temperature of the consignment reaches -18°C. A core temperature of -18°C must be maintained over 7 consecutive days.

Chlorine-based bleach at a dilution rate of 1-part bleach to 4-parts water, and allow to stand for at least 24 hours.

10.5 Treatment will be carried out by an authorised officer. After treatment the item is re-checked for signs of live insects and a second treatment will be applied, if necessary.

* 1. Treatment will be carried out at the importer’s expense.

10.7 Rock, stone, sand, pebbles or other mineral material found to be badly contaminated may be refused entry to UKOT[insert name of Territory] or confiscated and destroyed at the importers expense.

**Part D: Amendment Record – Import Health Standard for Rock, stone, sand and pebbles**

Amendments to this Standard will be given a consecutive number and will be dated in the body of the table. Brief details of the amended pages will be included.

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**List of Guidance notes and Import Health Standard Templates available:**

* Guidance notes and Import Health Standard for the importation of FRESH FRUIT AND VEGETABLES FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION
* Guidance notes and Import Health Standard for the importation of LIVE PLANT MATERIAL
* Guidance notes and Import Health Standard for the importation of VEHICLES, MACHINERY AND TYRES
* Guidance notes and Import Health Standard for the importation of COMPOSTS AND PEAT
* Guidance notes and Import Health Standard for the importation of Rock, stone, sand and pebbles
* Guidance notes and Import Health Standard for the importation of SAWDUST, WOOD CHIPS AND WOOD SHAVINGS
* Guidance notes and Import Health Standard for the importation of SHIPPING CONTAINERS

**List of Inspection Protocol Templates available:**

* Inspection protocol for FRESH FRUIT AND VEGETABLES FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION
* Inspection protocol for LIVE PLANT MATERIAL
* Inspection protocol for VEHICLES, MACHINERY AND TYRES

These Guidance notes, Import Health Standards and Inspection Protocols were adapted from documents developed by *Biosecurity St Helena*